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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 007738

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/17/2013

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH TURKISH INTERIOR

MINISTER AKSU: COUNTERTERRORISM/COUNTERINTEL COOPERATION

(U) Classified by Ambassador Eric Edelman, E. O. 12958, reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

11. (C) Summary: Ambassador emphasized to Interior Minister Aksu U.S. willingness to offer FBI-sponsored training and to arrange visits to the U.S. terrorism counterintelligence center. Ambassador also raised concerns about Turkish airport security and lack of visa requirement for Iranians. Aksu welcomed the training offers; claimed he had fixed the airport problems but asked aides to make sure; and said the GOT would require visas for Iranians as part of EU harmonization. Aksu also spoke to CODEL Cox (Homeland Security Committee) by telephone. End Summary.

12. (U) In a December 16 meeting, Ambassador thanked Interior Minister Aksu for the physical security Turkish police are providing to the U.S. Mission in Turkey. The Ambassador explained that, due to crew rest issues, CODEL Cox was unable to come to Ankara to meet Aksu as planned.

13. (C) Ambassador noted that U.S. and Turkish law enforcement authorities have worked together effectively in the past and spotlighted training opportunities in the U.S. that will facilitate cooperation in the future. Two Turkish experts would be welcome to attend an FBI-sponsored large vehicle bomb post-blast investigation course in January. Turkish police would be welcome to attend other courses at the FBI Academy; the Ambassador provided Aksu a Turkish-language copy of the course descriptions. Turkish police and Turkish National Intelligence Organization (TNIO) officials are invited to visit the U.S.'s terrorism counterintelligence center. Welcoming the offers, Aksu recalled he had participated in and encouraged similar programs during his prior stint as Interior Minister.

14. (C) Ambassador underscored U.S. concerns about Turkish airport security. Currently there is no enforcement of the requirement that airline passengers clear immigration and customs at their first point of entry. Instead, this is being done at the final destination. Aksu claimed he had changed the procedure one month ago. Ambassador asked if Aksu is certain his order has been implemented, or whether the procedure has reverted instead to a "honor system" relying on passengers to identify themselves as coming from foreign-origin flights. Aksu asked an aide to look into the matter.

15. (C) Ambassador also noted U.S. concern about the lack of a Turkish visa requirement for Iranians. According to press accounts, one of the suspects in the November Istanbul bombings reportedly traveled back and forth between Turkey and Iran; this is an area Turkey needs to review. Aksu replied that Turkey will impose a visa requirement on Iranians as part of EU harmonization. Turkey is imposing the visa requirement on various countries in tranches; Iran's group will come "soon," he claimed. "It's in the pipeline," an aide volunteered.

16. (U) At the conclusion of the meeting, CODEL Cox called Aksu by telephone and the two spoke cordially for several minutes.  
EDELMAN